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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/779,941

02/17/2004

Tsann Lin

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(0107-0)

9358

7590

07/17/2006

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAI V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3729

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/779,941

Applicant(s)

LIN, TSANN

Examiner

Tai Van Nguyen

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 22-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In regards to the merits of Lin (US 5,949,623) in view of Tanaka et al (US 6,617,265) and further in view of Mitauru Ura (US 3,602,778), the applicant arguments that Tanaka et al does not teach the features of that the step the silicon reduction process have been found to be persuasive.

Accordingly, the previous Non-Final rejection has been withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

2. The applicant amendment filed 4/19/2006 has been fully considered and made of record.

Applicant election with traverse of the reply in the reply filed on 4/19/2006 is acknowledge. The traversal is on the ground(s) that Group I and Group II are combination and subcombination, respectively where the subcombination (Group I claims) is essential to the combination (Group II claims).

The examiner traverses at least for the following reasons:

The examiner notes that the restriction requirement based upon subcombinations disclosed as being usable together (See MPEP a 806.05(d).) is proper at least to the extent of the preambles. In each Group, the preamble is of same scope and recites "A method ..." which is capable of being used for a read head.

So the examiner's position is that the different groups are different subcombination of similar methods, yet different features in each require separate

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inventions. For instance, in Group I, the read sensor is directly abutted with the longitudinal layers, as this has separate utility, or a separately usable process, from Group II.

The requirements is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. Claims 14-21 continue to be withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention Group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 4/19/2006.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 22 and 28 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 5 and 9. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin (US 5,949,623) in view of Nachtman John S. (US 3,152,886).

As applied to claim 1, Lin discloses a method of making a read head, comprising: forming a read sensor which is abutted by longitudinal bias layers (63, 64, Fig. 7), and selectively depositing lead layers (70, 71) over the longitudinal layers.

However, Lin does not teach use silicon reduction process and a hydrogen reduction process. Nachtman John S. discloses used silicon reduction process and a hydrogen reduction process (column 1, lines 23-50+).

As applied to claim 2, Lin discloses the lead layers are selectively deposited over the longitudinal bias layers without a photoresist formed over the read sensor (see column 7, lines 58-60+).

As applied to claim 3, Lin discloses wherein the read sensor is formed in a top-type configuration with one or more free layer in a lower portion thereof', and wherein the longitudinal bias layers has a midplane (60, Fig. 7) in alignment with the one or more layers.

As applied to claim 4, Lin discloses the longitudinal bias layers are deposited in side regions of the read sensor with use of a monolayer photoresist formed over the read sensor in a central region; and prior to selectively depositing the lead layers, removing the monolayer photoresist (column 7, lines 58-65+).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at this time the inventions was made to have modified the method of Lin, by including using a silicon

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reduction and a hydrogen reduction process, as taught by Nachtman John S., to positively improve the metallic compounds (column 1, lines 11-12).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 22-33 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tai Van Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4567. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 A.M - 4:30 P.M).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TN.
June 29, 2006



A. DEXTER TUGBANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER